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After the Berlin and Milan decrees, Napoleon found his government, like many another, between the conflicting interests of consumer and producer. Excepting for Danish and Algerian trade, the pressure of agricultural interests and the hint given by the English led to the development of the license trade. Napoleon wanted his system; he must keep it, but he must escape its disadvantages. Neutrals were not supposed to exist, but they persisted. A guarded license trade seemed safe, but it was a snare. Economic crises in France and England forced both powers to subterranean negotiations for relief and the evidence of these is one of Dr. Melvin's contributions.

Step by step, decree by decree, stage by stage the whole complex development is followed through to the final collapse. Incidentally, the part played by the United States as the chief neutral trader is brought out and there is presented the first adequate discussion of the administrative machinery and of the part played by Napoleon's subordinates.

As has been suggested, the treatment makes hard reading but the analytical table of contents is very helpful. The index is satisfactory and the thirty-five pages of critical bibliographical notes are a valuable addendum.

G. S. F.

*Some problems of the peace conference.* By Charles Homer Haskins and Robert Howard Lord. (Cambridge: Harvard university press, 1920. 306 p. \$3.00)

*The peace negotiations.* A personal narrative. By Robert Lansing. (New York: Houghton Mifflin company, 1921. 328 p. \$3.00)

*Great men and great days.* By Stephane Lauzanne. Editor of *Le Matin*. Member of the French mission to the United States. Introduction by Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university. Translated by John L. B. Williams. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1921. 263 p. \$3.00)

American interest in the events of the peace conference has been stimulated and satisfied of late by a number of books. The three volumes listed above represent three types. The first is a study of the problems confronting the conference and the settlement made in each case; the second is an account of the major shows at Paris by one who played a leading part in them; the third is a series of studies, by an eminent and well-informed journalist, of the leading men of the war period. All three have pronounced, although possibly unequal, merits and have great value for American students of the recent history of Europe and of our own country.

The first volume on the list is introductory to the other two. No study of the conference is possible without a thoroughgoing understanding of the problems which the conference tried to settle. This task has been

undertaken by the two authors of this work. It is probably unnecessary to urge their qualifications for such a study, both as historians and as advisers to the American peace commission. Simply and graphically they outline these problems, describe the way in which the conference dealt with them, and, generally add a qualified defense of the settlement. Especially valuable is the first chapter by Professor Haskins, which describes the organization of the conference; it is probably the best general account in English. Professor Haskins' treatment of the Saar valley and Professor Lord's treatment of Poland are the work of men defending settlements in which they took a considerable part, but are by no means the work of blind partisans. Less valuable, perhaps, are the treatments of the problems in which the authors were not directly concerned, such as the Balkans; but even here is the same clarity of expression, the same careful analysis. The book contributes no bits of "inside" information; both authors keep carefully within the limits of diplomatic propriety; but as a general introduction to the problems of the conference this book cannot be too highly praised. Students will be especially thankful, also, for the excellent brief bibliographies that follow each chapter. All told, it is a book that no one interested in the peace conference or its problems can afford to be without.

Around the second volume on this list much controversy has raged and will, probably, continue to rage for some time to come. The propriety of its publication and the highly controversial nature of its contents have been themes for many reviewers. Into much of this the present reviewer does not wish to enter. Mr. Lansing's book is avowedly a work of self-defense, a statement of his differences with President Wilson and the reasons which led him to take the position that he did. The author quotes extensively from his diary and from state papers to justify his thesis, and the book, therefore, abounds in "revelations" of varying value and importance. The scope of this new material is somewhat limited by the fact that Mr. Lansing sticks to his last and goes into none of the problems in which he did not differ from his chief. Transparent through it all is Mr. Lansing's fundamental honesty, for he gives the facts which tell against himself as well as those which tell in his favor. The result is a cross between the defense of a statesman for his policy and the account of the mental and spiritual difficulties of a man in a difficult situation. One has the impression that the author has honestly tried to tell all the truth and to be fair to his opponents — or opponent — but it would be a difficult task for an angel writing under such circumstances literally to fulfill this task. Students will have to weigh Mr. Lansing's impressions against other evidence, and in view of the present amount of our knowledge that is an almost impossible task. They will, however, welcome, as students of the period, Mr. Lansing's

volume. It lifts a corner of the curtain on the deliberations of the conference and for this reason, at least, can be counted as one of the indispensable volumes for this period.

Mr. Stephane Lauzanne has been for many years one of the better-known French journalists and the editor of the *Matin*. As in the case of his fellow worker, Andre Tardieu, formerly of the *Temps*, the French government has availed itself of his services as member of diplomatic missions, and he was in the United States as member of the French mission during the war. In the third volume of this list M. Lauzanne has drawn on his great knowledge of French politics of the past to give pen pictures of a row of French statesmen. To these he has added a group of American statesmen more superficially drawn, a pen portrait of Lloyd-George, and several chapters on America during the war. The best chapters are those devoted to the French statesmen, especially the ones devoted to Delcasse, Poincare, and Clemenceau. The latter is written in a thoroughly critical vein, for M. Lauzanne is a French imperialist who is not in sympathy with the kind of peace which the "Tiger" gave to France. The greatest value of the book for American students lies in the bits of hitherto unpublished information which are scattered through the volume. The policy of Delcasse is placed in a new light, and students of recent history will need to study the criticism of Clemenceau in view of the facts presented. It is a book, perhaps, to be skimmed rather than read, but it certainly deserves attention.

Literature on the peace conference and the European settlement is increasing rapidly and it has long since become necessary to pick and choose. In these three volumes three types of mind look at these events and give their verdicts, each in its fashion: those of the expert, the diplomat, the well-informed Frenchman. As a psychological study as well as because of the facts presented these three works may be commended to the American student.

MASON W. TYLER

*Select British documents of the Canadian war of 1812.* Edited, with an introduction, by William Wood. In 3 volumes. Volume I. (Toronto: The Champlain society, 1920. 678 p.)

After an interval of four years, the Champlain society has resumed publication of its very valuable series of historical texts relating to the history of Canada. One may properly take advantage of the occasion to recall that, since its organization some fourteen years ago, the society has published thirteen volumes, including Grant and Biggar's edition of Lescarbot's *History of New France*; Ganong's editions of Denys' *Description and natural history of the coasts of North America* and of Le Clercq's *New relation of Gaspesia*; Munro's *Documents relating to the seigniorial tenure in Canada*; Wood's *Logs of the conquest of*